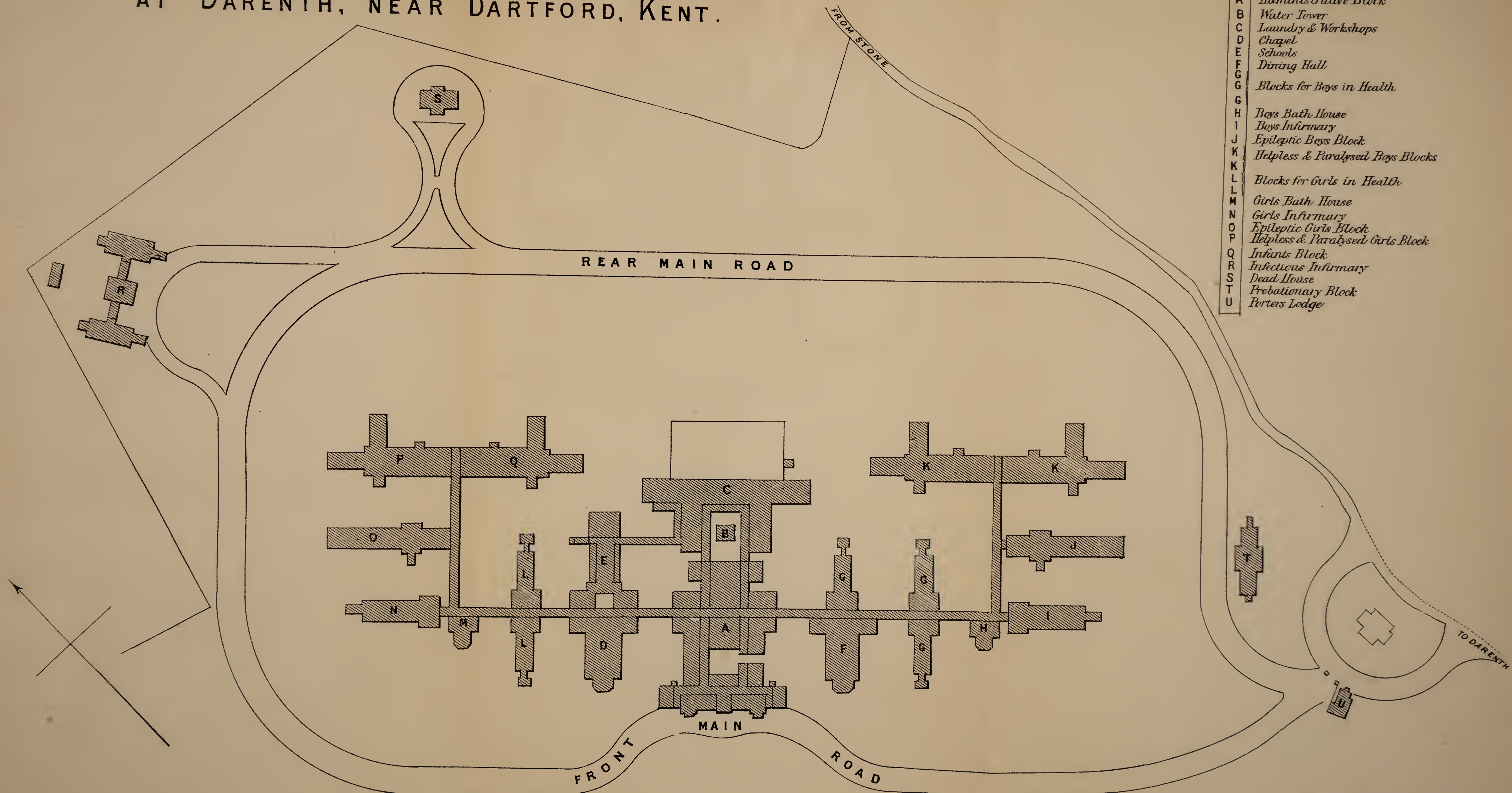


PROPOSED SCHOOL FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN AT DARENTH, NEAR DARTFORD, KENT.



REFERENCE

A	Administrative Block
B	Water Tower
C	Laundry & Workshops
D	Chapel
E	Schools
F	Dining Hall
G	Blocks for Boys in Health
H	Boys Bath House
I	Boys Infirmary
J	Epileptic Boys Block
K	Helpless & Paralysed Boys Blocks
L	Blocks for Girls in Health
M	Girls Bath House
N	Girls Infirmary
O	Epileptic Girls Block
P	Helpless & Paralysed Girls Block
Q	Infants Block
R	Infectious Infirmary
S	Dead House
T	Probationary Block
U	Porters Lodge

A & C HARSTON,
ARCHITECTS,
15, LEADENHALL ST.

Metropolitan Asylum District.

THE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR CLAPTON AND
DARENTH ASYLUMS
FOR
IMBECILE CHILDREN,

To 31ST DECEMBER, 1876.

LONDON:
HARRISON & SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

Printers in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1877.

Clayton Asylum

1876

No. of Patients - - : 335
a. Epileptics - - 20 per cent
b. Low grade - - about 100
c. Insane & Demented - - about $\frac{1}{3}$ rd
of the 330
No. of Staff. 56
Superior Officers.
~~Attending Surgeon~~
1 Matron, 1 Steward & 1 Steward's Clerk
Teaching Staff, 4
(under)
Attendants of 26 female
all rank - 1 Male Attendant who
also acts as Drill Master
Domestic Staff
for house, kitchen 10
Laundry, Clothing etc.
Workshop & other 2 Carpenters
2 Tailors
Unemployed - 1 Shoemaker
Engineer, 2 Stokers, 3 Porters 87

What are the domestic
arrangts for your Teacher

A Housemaid is appointed to
wait upon them & attend to their
1270 Sitting & Bedrooms - They mess together
240 The Head Schoolmistress has a Sitting & Bedr
3425 Herself, 2 share a Sitting & Bedroom - The
448. She sleeps outside the Buildings but has her own
Is your clothing made up for
the premises?

Yes

Have you now a staff
of adult imbeciles for
house work?

Yes 16

CLAPTON AND DARENTH ASYLUMS.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

For the Year ending 25th March, 1877.

SIR EDMUND HAY CURRIE, *Chairman.*

Dr. BREWER, J.P., *Chairman of the Board.*

BORLASE H. ADAMS, Esq., J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Board.*

GEORGE BURT, Esq.

RICHARD CULL, Esq.

ROBERT EVANS, Esq.

JOHN FISHER, Esq.

THOS. W. HODGES, Esq.

F. C. JONES, Esq., M.D.

JAMES MARSHALL, Esq., J.P.

REV. C. DARBY READE.

Admiral ROBERTSON, J.P.

ALEX. H. ROSS, Esq.

THOS. BENNETT SPENCE, Esq.

Clerk to the Managers—WM. FRANCIS JEBB, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE ASYLUM.

Medical Superintendent—FLETCHER BEACH, M.B. (Lond.)

Chaplain—REV. W. H. LANGHORNE, M.A.

Steward—MR. ALFRED KEATON GOWER.

Matron—MRS. GOWER.

Schoolmistress—MISS M. J. STEPHENS.

Clerk to the Committee—MR. J. H. RUTHERGLEN.

OFFICES OF THE MANAGERS.

37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR
CLAPTON AND DARENTH ASYLUMS FOR
IMBECILE CHILDREN,
FOR THE YEAR 1876.

YOUR Committee have the honour to submit the Annual Reports of the Officers of the Clapton Asylum for the year ending the 31st December, 1876, for which they ask the careful consideration of the Managers.

In their first Annual Report, for the year 1875, your Committee after briefly recapitulating the circumstances which led to the determination to provide separate accommodation and training for the Imbecile Children under the care of the Managers, detailed the steps taken by them up to the end of that year to give effect thereto, and in this, their second Annual Report, the Committee propose to continue an account of their proceedings during the year which has since elapsed, dealing in the first place with the progress made towards the completion of the Schools at Darenth.

At the end of the year 1875, the Plans for these Schools had been just finally approved by the Local Government Board, under their seal, and Messrs. A. & C. Harston, the Architects, were

engaged during the earlier months of the past year in the preparation of the working drawings and specification requisite for obtaining Tenders for the erection of the Building.

As soon as these were ready they were placed in the hands of Mr. Poland, the Surveyor engaged to take out the quantities, and on the 12th August last the Managers accepted the Tender of Messrs. Perry & Co., of Tredegar Works, Bow, for the erection of the Building for the sum of £59,000.

The Contractors at once commenced the Works, and by the 19th October sufficient progress had been made to enable the Foundation Stone of the School to be laid by Dr. Brewer, the Chairman of the Board, on that day, in the presence of the Managers and others interested in the work.

Since that date very fair progress has been made with the works, in spite of the unfavourable weather which has been experienced for building operations.

While preparations were being made for obtaining Tenders for the erection of the Building, your Committee accepted the Tender of Mr. Thomas Tilley, of Bond Court, Walbrook, for sinking the Well, on a Schedule of prices at which it was estimated the cost would be £1,198 15s., and upon the completion of his Contract it was found that, although a most adequate supply of water has been obtained, the total amount to be paid to him was only £1,050 5s., or £148 10s. less than the estimated cost.

As a proof of the adequacy of the supply, it may be stated that in testing the well for six days in the beginning of November last an average yield of 63,000 gallons was obtained per day, without sensibly lowering the head of water, on one of these days 92,000 gallons being pumped; and it is estimated that

at least 100,000 gallons per day would have to be pumped to keep the well clear of water. As only 20,000 gallons daily are needed for the requirements of the School, there is no reasonable doubt but that an ample supply of water has been secured.

Your Committee also, having regard to the importance of proceeding with the rain water and sewage drainage and tanks concurrently with the Building, had plans for these prepared by the Architects, and in October last submitted for acceptance by the Managers Tenders from Messrs. Perry & Co. to carry out the Drainage Works upon a Schedule of prices at which it was estimated their cost would be £1,331 13s. 7d., and for the formation of the rain water and sewage tanks for the sum of £1,182 6s. 3d.

These Tenders were accepted, and the Works have been proceeding, *pari passu*, with the building work.

The Committee have also approved generally a scheme prepared by the Architects, for the warming and general engineering works required, under which they will obtain Tenders for so much of the Works as the progress made with the general Building may from time to time render necessary, and when your Committee make their third Annual Report they confidently anticipate being in a position to fix a date for the transfer of the Children from Clapton Asylum to the new School, and they hope that this will not be later than Midsummer, 1878.

In the early part of the year the Committee found that the land, not having been cultivated for two years, had got into such a rough state that unless some steps were taken to get it into cultivation a very large outlay would be necessary when the land was wanted; they accordingly, with the sanction of the Managers, had the land thoroughly cleaned and put into cultivable condition, and when this had been done, they let so much as was not required

for the building operations to a neighbouring farmer, for two years, at a rent of £50 per annum, upon the condition that at the end of that period he should deliver it up in as good a condition as when let to him.

This arrangement was considered by your Committee and the Managers to be the best method of keeping the land in good condition until the School is ready, having regard to the many difficulties in the way of keeping it farmed by the Committee while no responsible Officer was resident on the Estate.

Your Committee have also successfully taken steps for obtaining the diversion of the footpath across a portion of the land, and by the purchase of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the Wood at the lower end of the land, for the sum of £263 18s. 2d., they have been enabled to get a practically straight boundary along the lower side of the site.

At the Clapton Asylum there have been few matters calling for special notice on the part of the Committee; from the Report of the Medical Superintendent it will be seen that during the year 120 Patients have been received, 44 have died, and 45 have been discharged, and that the average daily number in residence throughout the year has been 326.

As the total number which can be accommodated is 335, it will be seen that the Asylum has been practically kept full, and as a great many cases have been refused, and are now waiting to be received from the several Parishes and Unions, your Committee have no doubt that the larger accommodation provided in the School at Darenth will be required when the Building is completed.

During the past year only 14 of the Children have been sent

to the Adult Asylums of the Managers, through having reached 16 years of age, but in the course of the next two or three years a much larger number will have annually to be so transferred, amounting probably, when there are 500 Children under training, to an average of 60 or 70 per annum.

It would be a source of extreme regret to your Committee to feel that those Children whose improvement in the School has not been sufficient to justify their being sent forth at the age of 16 to earn their own livelihood, but who have nevertheless made great advances in habits of order and cleanliness, and in their industrial and educational training, should, by being placed in the large Wards at the Asylums for Adults, not only have their further training discontinued, but would, in all probability, in the course of time, to a great extent lose the benefits they had derived from their education and training in the School.

This is a matter which your Committee would commend to the serious consideration of the Managers, and of the Committees having charge of the Leavesden and Caterham Asylums, in the hope that some arrangement may be made by which the Children who at 16 years of age are transferred from the School, shall be kept together at either one or other of those Asylums, and their industrial training as far as possible continued, your Committee feeling confident that, irrespective of the chance of many of these Children being by their continued training rendered ultimately fit for discharge as able to earn their own living, the labour which will be obtained from them will be so useful as to render them almost self-supporting.

Your Committee would suggest that the Managers should bear this question in mind in connection with the third Asylum for Adults which, in all probability, they will sooner or later

have to provide, and to which it might be arranged to transfer the Children from the School as they arrived at the proper age.

In spite of the drawbacks incident to the imperfect accommodation at Clapton, the health of the Children has, with the exception of an outbreak of Measles in the summer, been fairly good, and the educational and industrial training has been carried on with marked benefit to the great majority of the Children.

The Managers when they made their annual inspection of the Asylum on the 13th July, were good enough to express themselves well satisfied with the results which were presented to them, an opinion which has been endorsed on several occasions by the Boards of Guardians and other Visitors, as well as by individual Managers who have been kind enough to come to some of the numerous Entertainments given by and to the Children.

The Commissioners in Lunacy also in their Annual Report, speak favourably of what has been done, under great difficulties, to train and educate the Children, the only fault they find being connected with the structural arrangements of the Building, which your Committee are quite aware are imperfect, but upon which they are not prepared to recommend any expenditure which can possibly be avoided during the short period remaining of the tenancy.

The question of the cost of the Children was so exhaustively dealt with by your Committee in their last Report, that little more remains to be said; it is satisfactory, however, to the Committee to be able to point out that their anticipations with regard to the cost per head for the maintenance and clothing of the Children have been fully realised, the charge per week for the half-years ending Lady-day and Michaelmas last having been at the rate of 5s. 3d. per head per week, instead of 6s. 1½d. as at the half-year

to Christmas, 1875, while the total cost of the Children (exclusive of rent) has now been reduced to 13s. 4d. per head per week as against 18s. 8½d. during the first half-year after the opening of the Asylum.

The Committee have therefore no reason to doubt that when the School at Darenth is ready and occupied by 500 Children, their cost will not exceed 12s. per week, as shown in the estimate of the Committee of the 4th December, 1875, approved by the Managers.

The vacancies created by the resignations of Mr. and Mrs. Alderton, the late Steward and Matron, were filled by the election of Mr. and Mrs. Gower, the late Superintendent and Matron of the Brighton Industrial School, who entered on their duties at Lady-day last, and have fully justified the confidence of the Committee. The recent Orders of the Local Government Board have made some alterations in the system upon which the working of the Asylum was started, but your Committee feel they may safely rely upon the good sense and loyalty of all their Officers to support them in carrying on the successful management of the Asylum.

The Committee desire again to record their thorough appreciation of the manner in which during the past year the whole of the Officers and the Staff have spared no efforts to ensure the comfort and well-being of the Children, and to carry out in the most perfect manner the great objects for which the Managers established the Asylum.

Your Committee beg the Managers also to accept their sincere thanks for the continued confidence reposed in them, and for the assent they are at all times ready to accord to the recommendations which the Committee submit to them.

(Signed)

EDMUND HAY CURRIE,

Chairman.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Committee of Clapton Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1876.

On the 31st of December, 1875, there were in the Asylum 300 Patients, of whom 168 were Males and 132 Females. During the past year there have been admitted 120 Patients, viz., 76 Males and 44 Females. Of these, 7 Males and 4 Females were re-admitted from the Homerton Fever and Smallpox Hospitals, to which they had been sent on account of their suffering from those diseases; 4 adult Imbecile Women were admitted from Hampstead to supply the places of 5 who had been discharged, and the remaining 105 came direct from the Unions and Parishes; 30 Patients, viz., 18 Males and 12 Females, have been discharged, including 11 to the Homerton Hospitals, and 44, viz., 23 Males and 21 Females, have died. The total number under treatment has been 420, the average daily number resident 326, and the number in the Asylum on the 31st of December, 1876, 331. Appended are tables of statistics.

The remark made in my Report of last year with reference to the failure of the Orders of Admission to give information respecting the history of the case and the duration of the disease in the Patients admitted still holds good. However suitable these Orders may be for Lunatics, they are of little use in the case

of Idiots. A column should be provided in which these particulars might be placed.

Of the Patients discharged, 12 Males and 7 Females, including 5 adult Women, have been transferred to Leavesden, Caterham, and Hampstead Asylums, the Children because they were over 16 years of age, and could be taught nothing either in the School, dormitories, or workshops, and the Women because they refused to work; 2 Women were sent to County Asylums in consequence of their becoming suicidal, and 1 Boy to a Convalescent Home; 6 Boys and 6 Girls were given over to their friends, or to the Boards of Guardians of the Parishes to which they belonged.

Eight cases of ophthalmia have occurred, 4 of these being Males and 4 Females. All of them had suffered from the disease previously, and 2 were chronic cases. The separate basin, towel, and soap system still works admirably in preventing the extension of this and other contagious diseases.

There have been 3 cases of Typhoid and 8 of Scarlet Fever. The latter disease, as in the case of last year, was introduced into the Asylum by the friends of Patients, whom, as before, it was found necessary for a time to exclude.

Three cases of Smallpox have occurred, and were at once sent to the Homerton Smallpox Hospital. All the Patients in the Asylum were re-vaccinated, and by degrees the Staff; no case has since occurred. Considering the prevalence of the disease in London, and especially in the neighbourhood of Hackney, it is a matter of congratulation that we have enjoyed such comparative freedom from it. The admission of Visitors was again stopped, and for a time the admission of Patients. The rule as to the non-admission of Visitors still remains in force.

During the Summer there was an outbreak of Measles. 40 Patients took the disease. As cases of Measles are not admitted into the District Asylum Hospitals, it was necessary to treat them here. Two tents were at once procured and erected in the grounds, and into them were moved the cases in the Probationary Ward, the latter being converted into a Measles Ward. The disease was of a very mild type. Only one Patient died, he being a very weak and helpless Child.

Close proximity to London, and the facility with which the Asylum is reached by the friends of Patients, though useful in many ways, yet exposes the Children to infectious diseases to a very great extent.

The death-rate, 10·4 per cent. on the total number under treatment, is higher than that of last year. This is no doubt due, 1stly, to the extreme youth of many of the Children. Several cases have been admitted under 5 years of age, the youngest Child at present in the Asylum being $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old. Four deaths occurred in Patients under 5 years of age. 2ndly, to the large number of weak and helpless Children in proportion to the healthy admitted; 2 came in such a weak condition that they died within a fortnight after admission. 3rdly, to the excessive cold of last Winter acting on young and helpless Children; 22 of the 44 deaths occurred from diseases of the lungs. 4thly, to the large number of Epileptic cases. Our experience in this matter I find is not unique, a high death-rate having prevailed at many other Institutions of a similar character.

The warming of the covered playground by hot water, which the Committee sanctioned at the commencement of the Winter, has been a great boon, and has been very beneficial to the health of the Children.

The registration of Epileptic Fits, which has been adopted

since the opening of the Asylum, shows that the physical and medical treatment of that disease pursued here has resulted in all cases in reducing the number of Fits, and in some cases curing the disease. In the latter case it had probably existed only a short time. In this our experience corresponds with that of most Childrens' Hospitals.

The casualties have been exceedingly slight.

The industrial training of the Children is now beginning to bear fruit. One Boy in the Shoemaker's shop rivets 16 pairs of boots per week, and 5 in the Tailor's shop are able to work the sewing machine. During the last 6 months, in the Tailor's shop there have been made 4 coats, 56 jackets, 62 waistcoats, 103 pairs of trousers, 60 blouses, and 26 dozen pairs of braces, while 500 jackets, 375 waistcoats, and 1,050 pairs of trousers have been repaired. In the Shoemaker's shop, 237 pairs of boots have been closed, 229 pairs rivetted, and 239 pairs finished, while 258 pairs have been repaired. In addition to the repairing, all the clothing and boots required for use are now made in the Asylum.

The number of Tailors and Shoemakers, 32 of each, are as many as the size of the workshops allow, while the constant repairing of the Asylum prevents the training of more than 2 Boys in the Carpenter's shop. One Boy is employed as an Engineer, 6 work in the Garden, 6 assist in the Dining Hall, 1 acts as a Page, and 24 work in the Dormitories.

On the Female side, 13 Girls work in the dormitories, 2 in the Laundry, 2 are employed in household work, 3 assist the Nurses in the detached Infirmary, and 2 work in the Sewing room. The "half time" system is still carried out.

Efforts continue to be made to bring under the influence of the Schoolroom every Child who is capable of instruction. The size

and structural nature of the class-rooms are, however, far from being perfect, and the School work is therefore carried on under many disadvantages. The number on the School Register on December 31st, 1876, was 270.

The appointment of a Male Attendant, who also acts as Drill Master, has proved of great service. Not only are the older Boys held more under control, but every Child in the building who is able to stand, is drilled daily, according to his or her physical capacity. Dumb bell exercise has been originated, in some respects surpassing that which, by the kind permission of the Committee, I have had an opportunity of seeing in the Idiot Asylums of America.

Although the supply of water to the Asylum was on the high pressure system, considerable difficulty was experienced during the summer in obtaining anything like a proper supply, and as the East London Water Company stated their inability to remedy this unless new water tanks were put up at a lower level than the existing tanks, the Committee gave notice to the Company that they would no longer continue to pay for the high water service, and made an arrangement for pumping the water from the low pressure main into the tanks, which has answered exceedingly well.

The Drainage of the Asylum is a constant source of anxiety. The drains are old and in very bad order, and constant attention to them and the sanitary arrangements of the building is required to prevent the escape of sewer gas into the Asylum.

In August last all the beds in the Asylum, 335 in number, were filled, and in order that all parishes should be treated fairly, the plan was adopted of keeping a book, in which applications from the parishes are entered in their order, and as vacancies arise the cases are admitted accordingly.

The Asylum has been visited by many gentlemen interested in our work. A deputation from the Charity Organization Committee, for making better provision for the care of Idiots and Imbeciles, paid us a visit, and were so much pleased with the work going on here, that the plan of the Asylum to be erected at Darenth has been recommended by them as a model for future Pauper Idiot Institutions.

Many Members of Boards of Guardians, the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and the Commissioners in Lunacy, have visited us, and have reported favourably upon the system of training here adopted.

Presents, both useful and ornamental, have been received. Among the former is a box of school apparatus, sent by Dr. Wilbur, Superintendent of the New York Idiot Asylum, who, when in England, paid us a visit, and was much interested in our work. Some of this apparatus was already in use here, but the rest was new to us. Among the latter may be mentioned a present of beautiful oleographs, from Mr. Mocatta, to adorn the walls of the Asylum, and a present of toys from Messrs. Payne and Son, High Holborn, for the Christmas tree.

The Entertainments during the winter and summer months still continue. Last January, our Annual Entertainment took place, some of the Patients taking a prominent part in it, their efforts being much appreciated by Visitors and Inmates. Upwards of 40 of the Children were taken to Epping Forest during the summer, and their evident enjoyment of the day was very gratifying to those of the Staff who were present.

Five cases have so much improved, that early this year they will be discharged "recovered." A plan is in contemplation for following them up after they leave the Asylum, in order to see

whether the improvement they have made here continues when they mix with the outer world.

It may be said that 5 is a small number to send out "recovered," but it must be borne in mind that the time during which the Asylum has been in operation is so short, that little could have been done with sane children; much more, then, does this hold good with imbeciles. The greatest progress is made among the younger Children, whose brains appear to respond more quickly to the influences brought to bear upon them, while bad habits can be more speedily eradicated; among these we may look for most recoveries. There are, however, a large number of Children in the Asylum who may be improved so far as to be able, when sent home, to do some work about the house, and thus indirectly contribute towards their support. Many of a class lower than this will have learnt some employment here, and when sent to the Adult Asylums will not be a dead weight, but will at once be able to do something in return for their maintenance.

It only remains for me to thank the Officers and Staff for their help so freely given, and you, Gentlemen, for your continued kindness and support.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FLETCHER BEACH, M.B., LOND.,

CLAPTON ASYLUM,

Medical Superintendent.

January, 1877.

CLAPTON ASYLUM.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of Patients in Asylum on Dec. 31st, 1875	168	132	300
Admitted since.. .. .	76	44	120
	<hr/> 244	<hr/> 176	<hr/> 420

Males. Females. Total.

Discharged—

To other District Asylums, being over 16 years of age, and incapable of learning anything ..	12	2	14			
Refusing to work (adults) ..		5	5			
To County Asylums		2	2			
Improved, to friends ..	2	..	2			
Not improved, to friends..	4	3	7			
At request of Guardians.. ..		3	3			
To Convalescent Home ..	1	..	1			
To Homerton Fever and Smallpox Hospitals ..	8	3	11			
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 45			
Died	23	21	44			
	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 89	50	39	89

Number resident in Asylum, Dec. 31st, 1876	<hr/> 194	<hr/> 135	<hr/> 331
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Average number resident, 326.

Table showing Ages of those who have Died.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 3 to 5 years	1	3	4
„ 5 to 7 „	4	3	7
„ 7 to 10 „	8	5	13
„ 10 to 15 „	10	7	17
Above 15 years .. .. .	..	3	3
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 44

Table showing causes of Death.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Cerebral Disease	..	..	..	5	2	7
Epilepsy ..	..	..	..	1	5	6
Phthisis ..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Tubercle of Lungs	..	..	..	1	0	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	7	6	13
Pneumonia	..	..	..	2	1	3
Diarrhœa..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Heart Disease	..	..	..	0	1	1
Ulceration of Bowels	..	..	..	1	0	1
Abscesses of Liver	..	..	..	1	0	1
Peritonitis	..	..	..	0	1	1
Measles..	..	..	..	1	0	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				23	21	44

Table showing length of residence in Asylum of those who have Died during 1876.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 month ..	..	..	..	1	1	2
From 1 to 2 months	..	..	..	1	2	3
„ 2 to 4 „	..	..	..	3	1	4
„ 4 to 6 „	..	..	..	5	1	6
„ 6 to 8 „	..	..	..	3	1	4
„ 8 to 10 „	..	..	..	9	3	12
„ 10 to 12 „	..	..	..	0	4	4
„ 12 to 18 „	..	..	..	1	7	8
„ 18 to 24 „	..	..	..	0	1	1
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				23	21	44

Table of Industrial Occupations.

Occupations of Boys.	Number employed in each grade, with quality of Work.				Total Number Employed.
	Indifferent.	Fair.	Good.	Excellent.	
I. Tailoring.					
1. Preliminary Work ..	10	..	2	..	32 Tailors 12 } 8 } 5 } 2 } 5 }
2. Sewing Linings or Seams	4	4	..	
3. Felling	2	3	..	
4. Button-holing	2	..	
5. Machining	1	..	4	
II. Shoemaking.					
1. Preliminary Work ..	6	2	..	2	32 Shoemakers 10 } 15 } 5 } 1 } 1 }
2. Closing Uppers	3	6	6	
3. Repairing	3	2	..	
4. Finishing	1	
5. Rivetting	1	

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLMISTRESS.

To the Chairman and Committee of the Clapton Asylum.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Second Report, being that of your School during the year 1876.

The number of Children attending school December 30th, 1876, was 270 (165 Boys and 105 Girls), with an average attendance of 164, though the number present has fluctuated from 112 to 199.

130 attended morning and afternoon.

57 attended $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour morning and afternoon.

79 attended half-time.

4 attended occasionally.

270

Those attending *whole time* are Children too young to be engaged in learning a trade, or are those that are too old, or not sufficiently intelligent to be profited by the instructions of the masters at shop. The *half-timers* attend the morning of one week and the afternoon of the next, except in the case of the Girls, who attend in the afternoon only, the mornings being spent in household work, &c. Two hours morning and afternoon being too long a time for the little ones to be at school, they attend from 10.30 to 12.0, and from 2.30 to 4.0.

The Children are arranged in school in *five mixed classes*.

CLASS I. consists of 29 Boys and 19 Girls; total, 48.

Reading From Reading Sheet, Primer, First or Second Standard.

Spelling From Words of one or two, to those of three Syllables (principally the names of common and familiar objects).

Writing From Slate to Copy and Exercise Books.

Dictation. From simple Words on Slate to Paragraphs in Exercise Books.

Arithmetic From the Addition of a few Figures on Slate to Sums in Weights and Measures (the majority working the first three or four Rules of Arithmetic).

Drawing On Slate or in Book, both having chequered lines, as has the Black Board on which the Copy is set and dictated, thus, at the same time, helping to teach counting.

Shop In this Lesson, the Children are taught to Buy and Sell correctly (to the amount of 2s. 6d. generally).

Tables Much improved during the past year. At the commencement, few attempted to repeat them; now they are beginning to be interested in them, and find they cannot be taught Multiplication and Division sums until learnt. Of Pence and Shilling Tables and of Weights and Measures they have a slight knowledge.

- Paper Plaiting.. From the plaiting of one stripe to that of a variety of different patterns.
- Paper Folding.. From the folding of a square to that of several forms.
- Colour With one or two exceptions, well known also the shades.
- Form From that of a horizontal line to that of a hexagon ; (spindle, crescent, &c., &c., also well known).
- Clock Not easily learnt by the Children ; 19 can tell the time.
- Letters 142 have been written during the past year to relatives and friends. Some copy over a Letter first written with lead pencil ; others copy from one composed for them, and written by the Teacher on the Black Board ; others write first on Slate, and, after correction, transfer to Paper, and one or two write without any assistance.
- Needlework Much improved ; from hemming Handkerchiefs to the making up of Underlinen. The following (in addition to occasional Fancy Work) has been done during the year ; not much, but very cleanly and creditably made up :—

33 Pinafores.

3 Petticoats, with Bodices.

16 Undergarments.

2 Work Bags.

6 Aprons.

12 „ (partly made).

20	Dusters Hemmed.
105	Handkerchiefs Hemmed.
49	Glass or Tea Cloths Hemmed.
<hr/>	
246	Total.
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Though much is disheartening in connection with the improvement in some of the classes, it is most satisfactory to see that the Children in this class have made great progress, and they will now settle themselves *to work*, devoting all their time and attention to the lesson being taught. In Arithmetic for instance, they will energetically copy from the Black Board the two or three addition, the one subtraction, and the one multiplication sum always set, then at once work them, those working more difficult sums proceeding to work from Arithmetical Primers. This is an improvement on the past, when half the time was spent by the teacher in correcting those talking or behaving badly.

CLASS II consists of 27 Boys and 19 Girls; total 46.

Reading From Alphabet Sheet, to Primer and Picture Roll.

Spelling Easy words of three or four letters, principally those of common objects.

Writing Letters or words, on Slate or in Copybooks.

Dictation Single letters, and a few words on Slate.

Arithmetic From the Addition and Subtraction of 20 beads or cubes to the Addition of the same number on Slate.

Counting From 1 to 100.

Drawing On slate only, from most simple forms.

Shop Most simple transactions in buying and selling, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of rice at 4*d*.

- Tables From 2×2 to 7×12 . Can distinguish the current coins and give their value.
- Paper Plaiting.. From the Plaiting of one stripe to a few simple patterns.
- Paper Folding.. Most simple forms.
- Colour With one or two exceptions, well known (also the shades).
- Form From that of a horizontal line to that of a spindle, crescent, &c.
- Clock The Roman Figures principally taught, and the use of the two hands. Only two Children are able to tell the time.
- Needlework.... From the hemming of scraps of calico, to the making up of underlinen.

The behaviour of the Children in this class has greatly improved, also their knowledge of figures and letters (when dictated). Some little girls are making great progress. A few are very dull.

CLASS III consists of 21 Boys and 14 Girls; total 35.

- Reading From a Pictorial Alphabet and Picture Cards (on which the corresponding word to the Picture is printed). With this word system they seem to make very little progress.
- Spelling The words shewn on the Picture Cards, and some of two and three letters.
- Writing From simple strokes to the letters o, a, t, and the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, on Slate and Black Board. Nearly all attempt, but a few write indiscriminately all over their Slates.

Arithmetic Addition of cubes (or other objects to help comprehension) to 10, many not being able to add more than $1 + 1$.

Counting From 1 to 40.

Paper Plaiting.. A few plait correctly over one stripe, many cannot distinguish between one and two.

Paper Folding.. Several fold from Dictation and Pattern, a square, oblong, or triangle ; in several cases quite correctly.

Colour Principally the primary Colours, several knowing them well, and a few knowing the shades of each. Beads of certain colours are also threaded at the direction of the Attendant.

Form Most familiar shapes, many of which are well known.

Clock Principally the Roman Figures and the use of the two hands are taught. The figures I, II, III, IV, V, VI, are known.

German Target. This lesson (or amusement) is to teach throwing with correct aim into the wide opened mouth of the Target, which is an immense brilliantly coloured boy's face.

Money The difference between and the value of a $\frac{1}{4}d.$, $\frac{1}{2}d.$, and $1d.$, and pence generally.

Cubes This lesson is to teach Form, the Children erecting from a pattern built by the Attendant. A few succeed in imitating correctly.

Needlework. . . . On scraps of calico, &c., a few hem fairly.

Formerly in this class were some of the elder Children who shewed but little intelligence. Finding the Fourth or Infant Class much in advance they have been raised to the Third, while the Third have descended to the Fourth. They are all little Children, some of whom are getting on nicely, one or two having lately made great progress in writing and needlework. Most of them are lively, bright, restless, and hopeful, requiring much attention from the Attendant, who has frequently to check outbursts of temper, talking, quarrelling, and fits of destructiveness.

Class IV consists of 29 Boys and 15 Girls; total 44.

Reading From Pictorial Alphabet and Picture Cards,
(of both they know but little).

Spelling The words on Picture Cards and a few of
two or three letters.

Writing From strokes to the letters o, a, t. One
or two write correctly in the ruled
lines. Many scratch over the Slate,
or make no attempt to do even this.

Arithmetic	} As in the Third Class, but taught with less satisfactory results.
Counting	
Paper Plaiting and Folding.	
Money	
Colour and Form	
Clock	
German Target. Cubes	

Needlework . . One or two hem fairly. The majority are
continually breaking their needles
and thread, or re-commencing. Many
place the needle in and out of the

work most indiscriminately. One little girl used to place her sewing in her mouth, fortunately she has been broken of this habit.

As before mentioned, many of these are old and have but little intelligence, some having been admitted at the age of 14 or 15. Though there is little hope for improvement (except in behaviour), their education has the effect of occupying their time pleasantly, in keeping them out of mischief, and brings them under the happy and bright influence of a School World.

CLASS V consists of 59 Boys and 38 Girls (*Upper and Lower Class*); total 97.

Reading From Cards, with the Dentals and Labials separately arranged, and from the Pictorial Alphabet. A few will point to a letter on being called upon to do so. The repeating of the names, is the means of helping many to talk.

Writing On Slate or on Black Board, the Attendant guiding the hand of the writer. Only one or two will, without assistance, write an o, or strokes, in the ruled lines, a few simply scribble, others make no attempt.

Arithmetic Addition of cubes, &c., generally $1 + 1$ or $2 + 2$.

Counting Figures 1 to 10, a few counting beyond.

Colour Taught by threading Coloured Beads, also by means of balls which the Children match by placing in correspondingly Coloured cups (egg-shaped).

Form The shapes of square, oblong, triangle, and circle. Also taught by means of a pincushion having stars upon it. In these, the pins are placed slantingly, uprightly, &c., &c.

German Target. An excellent lesson for this class, where many require rousing. A few are afraid of the wide opened mouth.

Cubes Taught generally with the Children seated on the floor in a semi-circle. The building up and knocking down of a column gives great pleasure.

Toys Many children who seem very apathetic will brighten at the sight of a wooden horse or doll. Frequently they play at ball with the attendant. If not well looked after, it is occasionally stolen. Frequently, on its return, the india-rubber is split by some poor little child treading on it.

The Boys attend from 11.0 to 12.0, and from 2.30 to 4.0. The Girls, from 10.30 to 12.0, and from 3.0 to 4.0. Several of these Children are very young, and are placed in this class to be broken of noisy and restless habits before entering the Upper Schoolroom. Many are very imbecile, and would (unless roused) sit, stand, or lie in one position from time of entrance to that of dismissal; or would be wandering aimlessly and perpetually, unless checked. Great effort has been made by the two present Attendants to introduce order, with success; some of the children (about 25) will stand orderly in a semi-circle during certain lessons. Frequently former Attendants have considered the children incapable of improvement, and would make no effort to bring out that which was, in some cases, lying dormant. The attendance in this class is very fluctuating.

All change lessons and places every half-hour (with one or two exceptions); between each, there is singing and marching.

Collective Lessons are given to the first, second, third, and fourth classes, on the following subjects:—Bible and Natural History, Common Objects, Colours, Form, Clock, Money, Trades, Morals, and easy lessons on the divisions of land and water.

Kinder-Garten songs and games are taught to all classes but the First.

Dancing lessons are given two evenings a-week to several Children of the First and Second Classes; eight have thoroughly learnt the “Lancers.”

Singing, in all classes, is taught by ear, the Children first learning the words of the song, repeating being a means of improving their speech. All are very fond of singing, but several cannot sing, so listen to the others with pleasure. Some sing without words.

The musical drill is still carried on, three half-hours being devoted to it during the week. With the exception of many in the Fifth Class, all take part in it.

During the excessive heat of the past summer the children were languid and restless. Finding it cooler in the grounds, the school work was there carried on, each class having its regular position assigned to it under a shady tree. Even this change did not dispel all the languor.

The Fortnightly Entertainments are carried on during the winter months. Several Children take part in them.

From 6.30 to 7.0 is occasionally spent in games, that of the

General Post, Musical Chairs, &c., &c., being most frequently played. The little ones, when at play, are particularly fond of "Keeping School."

Through the kindness of a few friends, over 40 Children were taken to Epping Forest. The drive and the visit they much enjoyed. Occasionally, walks are taken in this neighbourhood, during one of which Victoria Park was visited.

Some toys having been kindly sent by one or two friends, they have been thoroughly appreciated, the large ones being kept for use at stated times, the smaller ones being frequently given by the teachers as rewards. These little gifts, with a few words of encouragement, give much pleasure.

The Educational Staff consists of Two Assistant Mistresses, 2 School Attendants, 2 Assistant School Attendants (who come with the little ones from 10.30 to 12.0, and from 2.30 to 4), and a Monitress, all of whom have worked well. There is also myself as Head Mistress.

Just as sensible Children seem to acquire knowledge imperceptibly, year after year, so these Imbecile Children, after having had "line upon line," are much better behaved and informed. Some, we are hoping soon to send to their friends. Many of the remainder live in a much larger world of thought than formerly, and in their own sphere are bright and happy.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) M. J. STEPHENS.

CLAPTON ASYLUM,

January, 1877.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT ASYLUM, CLAPTON, E.

SCHOOL TIME TABLE.

MORNING.						AFTERNOON.					
		10.0 to 10.30	10.30 to 11.0	11.0 to 11.30.	11.30 to 12.0.	2.0 to 2.30.	2.30 to 3.0.	3.0 to 3.30.	3.30 to 4.0.		6.30 to 7.0.
Monday ..	1	Bible, Moral, or Nat. Hist. Lessons.	Sums,	P. Plaiting or Fold.	Mental Arithmetic,	Transcribing, Adding & Subt. German Target, Adding & Subt.	Transcribing, Clock, Sewing, G. 3, 4, { Writing, B. 3, { Reading, B. 4, Cubes.	Shop, Figures, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Reading, B. 3, { Writing, B. 4, { Toys.	Counting & Tables, " " " " Singing and Marching, "	1 2	Letters Written. " "
	2		"	Writing,	Kinder-Garten,						
	3		Paper Folding,	Adding & Subt.	Songs & Games,						
	4		Writing,	Letters & Pictures.	" "						
	5		Form.	Counting & Colour.	" "						
Tuesday ..	1	Spelling, Tables, and Counting.	Reading,	Shop,	Exercising,	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Writing, B. 1, 2, Adding & Subt. Letters & Pictures.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Writing, B. 1, 2, Reading, Beads, Perfor. B. & Nails.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Mental Arithmetic, Writing, Counting & Colour, Letters & Pictures.	Singing and Repeating, " " "	1 2	Dancing Lesson or Fancy Work.
	2		"	P. Plaiting or Fold.	"						
	3		Writing,	Reading,	"						
	4		Cubes,	Counting & Colour.	"						
	5		Writing.	Letters & Pictures.	"						
Wednesday..	1	Colour, Form, and Clock Lesson.	Sums,	Writing.	Singing	HALF	HOLIDAY.	HALF	HOLIDAY.	1 2	Reading by a Teacher.
	2		"	Dict. of Letters.	and						
	3		Paper Plaiting,	Adding & Subt.	Repeating,						
	4		Writing,	Letters & Pictures.	Adding & Subt.						
	5		Cubes.	Counting & Colour.	German Target.						
Thursday ..	1	Spelling, Tables, and Counting.	Reading,	Dictation,	Mental Arithmetic,	Sums, " " Colour and Form, Adding & Subt.	Sums, Colour & Form, Sewing, G. 3, 4, { Writing, B. 3, { Reading, B. 4, Cubes.	Colour, F. & Clock. Figures, Sewing, G. 3, 4, Reading, B. 3, { Writing, B. 4, { Game of Ball.	Exercising, " " " "	1 2	Games or Toys.
	2		"	Transcribing,	Kinder-Garten,						
	3		Writing,	Reading,	Songs & Games,						
	4		P. Plait. or Fold.	Counting & Colour.	" "						
	5		Writing.	Letters & Pictures.	" "						
Friday ..	1	Trades, Map, or Object Lesson.	Sums,	Drawing,	Drawing,	Reading, " " Clock, Counting & Colour.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, Trans., B. 1, 2, Reading, Beads, Pincushion & Pins.	Sewing, G. 1, 2, M. Tables, B. 1, 2, Writing, Letters & Pictures. Counting & Colour.	Singing and Repeating, " " "	1 2	Dance or Entertainment.
	2		"	Writing,	Exercising,						
	3		Cubes,	Adding & Subt.	"						
	4		Writing,	Letters & Pictures.	"						
	5		Toys.	Counting & Colour.	"						
Saturday ..	1	Money, and Money Tables.	Reading,	Writing,	Singing	HALF	HOLIDAY.	HALF	HOLIDAY.	1 2	Practice in Chapel.
	2		"	Shop,	and Repeating						
	3		Writing,	Reading,	Hymns,						
	4		Cubes,	Counting & Colour.	Adding & Subt.						
	5		Writing.	Letters & Pictures.	German Target.						

Between each lesson, Singing and Marching. The 3rd Class to reverse the 1st and 3rd Lessons.

